



Arizona Medical Board

9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

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FINAL MINUTES FOR INTERNET PRESCRIBING SUBCOMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE **Held at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22, 2006** **9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona**

Subcommittee Members

Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D., F.A.C.S., Chair
Ram R. Krishna, M.D.
Douglas D. Lee, M.D.
William R. Martin III, M.D.
Paul M. Petelin, Sr., M.D.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to Order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following Board Members were present: Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D., F.A.C.S., Ram R. Krishna, M.D., Douglas D. Lee, M.D., William R. Martin, III, M.D. and Paul M. Petelin, Sr., M.D.

CALL TO PUBLIC

Statements made from the public appear under item II.

NON-TIME SPECIFIC ITEMS

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Ram R. Krishna, M.D. moved to approve the September 14, 2006 Internet Prescribing Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

SECONDED: William R. Martin, III, M.D.

VOTE: 5-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent

MOTION PASSED.

II. Public Comment and Subcommittee Discussion on proposed Substantive Policy Statement re: Internet Prescribing

John Rao from Secure Medical said he recognized that some forms of internet prescribing are not safe, such as when the computer reviews the on-line questionnaire and determines if a prescription should be issued. However, Mr. Rao stated Secure Medical practices a safe form of internet prescribing that does not pose a danger to the public. Mr. Rao stated they have never received any quality of care complaints and the questionnaire had been improved to ask thorough questions of patients. Mr. Rao said studies have shown that patients are more truthful when answering internet questionnaires than they are when face to face with a physician.

Joel Korsunsky from Secure Medical said he recognized that face to face relationships are preferred between a physician and a patient, but that today's patients are becoming more educated about their illnesses, due to the internet, and usually self-diagnosis. Mr. Korsunsky said many times patients merely rely on a physician for a second opinion or to request the prescription they feel best matches their symptoms, based on a commercial they saw about the drug. Mr. Korsunsky said there are also a number of embarrassing drugs that are difficult for patients to discuss face to face with their physician. Mr. Korsunsky also described the telemedicine process currently being used by their company and asked for the Board's input on how they may improve the process.

Paul M. Petelin, Sr., M.D. noted the medical establishment may be offended by the comment made by Mr. Korsunsky that patients would only be coming to see physicians for a second opinion. Dr. Petelin said physicians may wonder what the purpose of medical school is if patients could self-diagnose based on articles from the internet. Mr. Korsunsky said his comment was not meant to offend the Board, but rather was the opinion of several physicians he had spoken to. Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D. said he never had a patient present to him for such type of "second opinion" and did not know of any physicians who were of the same opinion concerning patient's self-diagnosis.

Ram R. Krishna, M.D. noted it was Dr. Rao's testimony that 95% of the prescriptions Secure Medical filled were for erectile dysfunction worked up by a physician prior to receiving the medication. Dr. Petelin expressed his concern for this type of practice in that he said there are a number of diseases, such as diabetes, that include erectile dysfunction and these diseases would be missed without workup from a physician. Mr. Rao stated Secure Medical had issued 600,000 prescriptions with no quality of care issues and that they have a fairly strict policy for rejecting prescriptions as 6% of the prescriptions requested have been declined.

Douglas D. Lee, M.D. noted Secure Medical may not know if there is ever a quality of care issue with the medications prescribed because they do not have an adequate follow up in terms of complications and adverse reactions. Dr. Lee noted an evaluation of a patient on paper rather than in person takes away from a significant part of a physician's practice. Dr. Lee questioned why the drugs Secure Medical prescribed were not over the counter drugs if they could be obtained so easily?

Mr. Rao said they were not prescribing any anti-psychotic or anti-anxiety drugs and stated the list of drugs they were utilizing were up for review and they would appreciate guidance from the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee noted it would take into consideration at its next meeting the concerns raised during this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy C. Miller".

Timothy C. Miller, J.D., Executive Director